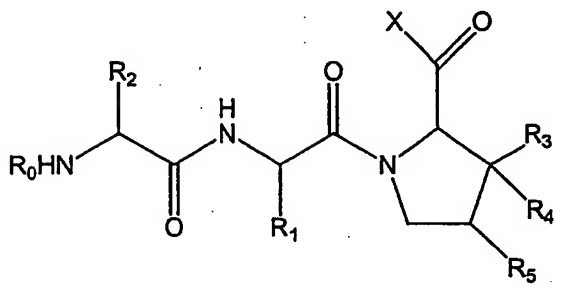
Claims

1. Use of the compounds of the following formula (I):



(I)

wherein X represents OH, (C_{1-5})alkoxy, NH_2, NH-C_{1-5}-alkyl, $N(C_{1-5}$ alkyl$)_2$;

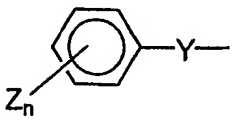
R_1 is a residue derived from any of the amino acids Phe, Tyr, Trp, Pro, each of which may optionally be substituted by a (C_{1-5}) alkoxy group, a (C_{1-5}) alkyl group or a halogen atom, and Ala, Val, Leu, or Ile;

R_2 is a residue which is derived from any of the amino acids Gly, Ala, Ile, Val, Ser, Thr, His, Arg, Lys, Pro, Glu, Gln, pGlu, Asp, Leu and Asn;

R_3 and R_4 independently represent H, OH, $(C_1$-$C_5)$alkyl, or (C_{1-5})alkoxy, provided that R_3 and R_4 are not both OH or (C_{1-5})alkoxy;

R_5 represents H, OH, (C_{1-5}) alkyl or (C_{1-5})alkoxy;

and wherein R_0 represents a group of the formula



wherein Y represents -CO-, $-CH_2CO-$, $-CH_2CH_2CO-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CO-$, -CH=CH-CO or $-OCH_2CO-$, and wherein Z represents a halogen atom, a trifluormethyl group, (C_{1-4}) alkoxy group, (C_{1-4}) alkyl group; or wherein two neighbouring substituents may form a (C_{1-3}) alkylendioxy group; and wherein n is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 5;
or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

for the preparation of a medicament useful in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is a residue derived from any of the amino acids Phe, Tyr, Trp, each of which may optionally be substituted by a (C_{1-5}) alkoxy group, a (C_{1-5}) alkyl group or a halogen atom, or a residue derived from the amino acid Ile.

3. The use according to claim 2, wherein R_1 is a residue derived from Phe which may optionally be substituted by a (C_{1-5}) alkoxy group, a (C_{1-5}) alkyl group or a halogen atom.

4. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein X is (C_{1-5}) alkoxy, NH_2, NH-C_{1-5}-alkyl, or N(C_{1-5} alkyl)$_2$.

5. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein R_2 is a residue derived from the amino acid Gly or Ile.

6. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein R_0 is a cinnamoyl moiety.

7. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of formula (I) is cinnamoyl-glycyl-L-phenylalanyl-L-prolinamide, cinnamoyl-isoleucyl-phenylalanyl-

L-proline ethylamide, cinnamoyl-isoleucyl-isoleucyl-prolineamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.